

**Council on Postsecondary Education
September 22, 2002**

Executive Summary

4. Are we preparing Kentuckians for life and work?
5. Are Kentucky's communities and economy benefiting?

The staff recommends that the council approve the University of Kentucky's request to construct a Professional Development Center with \$8,000,000 of private funds. (For details, see page 27.)

The University of Kentucky has requested that the council approve the construction of a 29,000 square foot Professional Development Center for professional development programs, conferences, and training workshops. The facility will serve the needs of the International Business and Management Center. It will allow conferences and professional development activities to be held on campus and reduce the institution's dependence on outside facilities. This project represents a public/private collaborative effort on the part of UK and the business community.

Western Kentucky University has received notification that the Council on Education in Public Health has accredited its Master of Public Health program. This action will strengthen the collaborative public health initiative currently underway in the state among Eastern Kentucky University, the University of Kentucky, the University of Louisville, and WKU. CEPH accredits both schools of public health and individual academic programs in public health (Community

Health Education, for example). WKU received program accreditation. Most accredited schools of public health are located in academic health science centers and are required to offer degrees in the five core public health specialties and a doctoral degree in at least one of the five fields. In November 2001, because of issues with the national accrediting body for public health programs, the council approved development of joint programs between UK and UofL that are needed to create schools of public health at those institutions through 2004. The council and the two institutions will work with the accrediting body to create one jointly accredited school of public health in Kentucky by 2004. ECU has not yet sought accreditation for its relatively new MPH program, but all four institutions are working to share core public health courses and faculty and provide on-line access to students and practitioners in public health around the state. Having an accredited school of public health in Kentucky and accredited programs at partnering institutions will make collaboration easier.